

ECCC



El Cerrito Community Newsletter

Volume Six

Number 7

June, 2011

**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY**

June 21, 2011

**ECCC Meeting – Thursday, June 16th, 2011
Reorganizing the San Diego
Redevelopment Agency**

Mr. Don Mullen, Chief of Staff to 7th District Council Member and Michael Jenkins, JD will give the presentation on Reorganizing the Redevelopment Agency for Council Member Marti Emerald. The following article is written by Marti Emerald:

"San Diego's Redevelopment Agency has much to be proud about. We've won awards for projects in City Heights and Barrio Logan, and national recognition of the Centre City Development Corporation's revitalization of downtown. Our Agency staff is professional and committed, and residents are actively involved in project planning.

Yet, we have problems. I have heard from the public that we adopted redevelopment project areas that are not truly blighted; that blight in downtown has been eliminated but we keep collecting redevelopment dollars to enhance City revenue; that we just build shopping centers, not projects that truly benefit low-income residents; that we select developers who are connected, rather than most qualified; that redevelopment is not used to create new jobs; that funds have been improperly transferred among project areas; that Agency debts to the City have not been repaid; and that we have not built enough affordable housing. And we all remember the scandals uncovered by the Voice of San Diego at the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) and at CCDC.

I don't agree with all these criticisms. But I do think the public criticisms reflect problems we have with the Agency's effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, and transparency. To understand these problems, I want to clarify how the San Diego Redevelopment Agency is organized.

Just as a business is the sum of its parts – its buildings, employees, assets, and liabilities, the San Diego Redevelopment Agency is fourteen project areas spread throughout the City, hundreds of revitalization projects, millions of dollars in bond debt, and numerous contracts. Redevelopment agencies are state agencies, not a part of the City, and are governed by state law, not the City Charter. The Board of Directors of the San Diego Agency, by state law, is the City Council. As currently organized, the San Diego Agency carries out redevelopment through a contract with CCDC for two downtown project areas, a contract with SEDC for one project area, and a third contract with the City for the other eleven project areas. (That's right; the City is a contractor to the Agency.) CCDC and SEDC are both nonprofit corporations chartered by the City.

Our effectiveness problem is that not all project areas get their proportionate share of resources and expertise. Our efficiency problem is that redevelopment work and expenses are duplicated among the three operating components of the Agency. Our accountability problem is that everyone who does work for the Agency really works for another employer, and so has a built-in conflict of interest. The best example of this is last year's State budget deal that lifted the cap on collecting downtown tax increment. Agency board members – the City Council members with the duty under State law to be responsible for redevelopment – were kept out of the loop on this important decision. Our transparency problem is that our complicated organization structure, coupled with gray areas about what information is public and what is not, make it difficult for the public to understand the redevelopment decision process.

We can fix these problems. My reorganization plan eliminates duplicated functions and leverages our strengths and successes by merging CCDC, SEDC, and the City's Redevelopment Department into a single San Diego Development Corporation, and centralizes all affordable housing responsibility and funding in the Housing Commission. My plan gives the Agency Board the resources to be accountable by making the Agency Executive Director, Finance Manager, and Legal Counsel direct employees of the Board. And my plan simplifies the Agency decision process. I believe that my plan has the elements necessary to be effective.

Governor Brown has proposed that redevelopment agencies should be eliminated. I disagree. Redevelopment is a critical tool to revitalize older neighborhoods, as we have proved in our downtown and in other parts of our city. We must restore public confidence in how San Diego manages redevelopment, and prove to Governor

Brown and our state representatives that redevelopment is too important to de-fund. We can do that by building a new redevelopment model in San Diego: lean, smart, effective, transparent, and capable of generating new tax revenues where none previously existed." Read and comment on reorganizing the Redevelopment Agency on the ECCC Blog at:

<http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/>

Northgate Gonzalez Market

Our second speaker at the June 16th Meeting will be a representative from Northgate Gonzalez Market who is shortly opening a grocery store at 54th & University Avenue. Come see the plans for this site and what items the market will carry.

Newsletter Donations – Your Help Is Needed!

Unfortunately we are very low on funds. The ECCC desperately needs your help to pay for the printing of this month's and future newsletters. The cost is \$245 per month. Any donation you make – large or small – is truly appreciated. This month the ECCC received a total of \$37.00. The ECCC received one PayPal Donation of \$25.00 from Claire LiMandri on Austin Dr. Please keep the donations coming in. **You can also donate using our PayPal link on the ECCC Blog at:** <http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/>

El Cerrito Enclave Project 72057

On Thursday June 2, 2011 the Planning Commission of the City of San Diego voted 5-0 to deny a permit for El Cerrito Enclave project, proposed for the intersection of Gilbert Drive at Berting Street in El Cerrito. The ECCC would like to express its appreciation for the hard work in preparing the communities objection to this development. A special "Thank You" goes out to Peter Godeck of the Arroyo Ridge Residents Association, Maurice Rios and the homeowners on Gilbert Drive, Dayton & Hinson for taking time out of their busy schedules to oppose this project. Approximately 25 residents were in attendance – a forceful turnout that paid off for the community.

New Community Relations Officer – North of El Cajon Boulevard

The ECCC would like to welcome Officer Rene Murillo who will be our CRO for north of the Boulevard through August. His email is rmurillo@pd.sandiego.gov and his phone is 619.516.3009.

Mid-City Division Police Realignment

On May 26, Jan Riley representing the ECCC and other community council representatives who will be realigned to the eastern division, in September, met with Chief Long, Captain McKinney, Captain Creighton, and Lt. Chuck Kay. The community groups had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the beat re-alignment scheduled for September 17, 2011. Chief Long will be providing a map with exact boundaries for the streets north of El Cajon Blvd. that will define the new area. Maps of current and proposed police division boundaries are available on the ECCC Blog at:

<http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/>.

Current division boundaries are also available from the SDPD website at

<http://www.sandiego.gov/police/neighborhood/index.shtml>.

Funding For the College Car – Letter to SDSU

At its Board meeting on June 2, 2011, it was agreed the members of the ECCC would be asked at the June ECCC meeting to support the College Area Community Council's letter of May 11, 2011, to San Diego State University concerning the funding of the "party car:"

"Dear President:

The El Cerrito Community Council (ECCC) is located south of Montezuma and is bounded by College Avenue to the East, University to the South, Collwood Boulevard to the west and Baja Canyon to the north. The ECCC is writing in support of the College Area Community Council's letter to you of May 11, 2011 regarding San Diego State University's involvement in the College Car program. This innovative partnership between the SDSU Police and the City of San Diego Police Dept., has resulted in the El Cerrito neighborhood becoming a better and quieter place to live since its inception. The ECCC agrees with CACC's position that the College Car Program is the most effective program to mitigate loud parties and related nuisances in our community. Not only has the program resulted in fewer disturbances, it has also brought about documented decreases in other crimes, including burglaries and assaults, that affect all residents of El Cerrito, including students.

We understand the anticipated budget cuts threaten future campus funding for this program. We strongly urge you to make the College Car a priority and to set aside sufficient funding for SDSU Police staffing so that the program can continue. Like SDSU, the City of San Diego is facing difficult financial challenges, but the SDPD Eastern Division (which will assume responsibility for the College Area this fall) has already committed to continuation of the program. We now need for SDSU to do the same. Sincerely, Jan Riley, Chair, ECCC"

Need a Roof Repair or Replacement?

Do you or do you know of a neighbor in need of roof repair or replacement? Rebuilding Together San Diego (RTSD) is looking for low-income homeowners who require roof repairs or replacements. For a limited time RTSD is now accepting applications for consideration for this program to qualified homeowners, which is being offered free of charge to qualified and selected recipients. They need to receive applications in the next 1-2 weeks. Please contact Pamela Thorsch at pamela@rebuildingtogethersd.org. The organization will run out of funding for this program by September 30th. you can also visit:

<http://rebuildingtogethersd.org/stories/roof-repair-replacement-program.html> for more information.

Planning for University Avenue Community Input Sought

The University Avenue Mobility Study is formulating proposals for changes along University Avenue from 54th

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Street to 69th Street. The May 16, 2011 Community Workshop presented options to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety while calming automobile traffic. The proposals include raised medians, ready for landscaping when a funding source can be identified for water and maintenance. Bicycle lanes are suggested along the whole route. Space can be made for medians and bike lanes by narrowing traffic lanes, eliminating unused curbside parking and eliminating third traffic lanes. Planners are also considering the elimination of "free" right turn lanes at 54th and 58th Streets, where cars can turn right without stopping. This will make these intersections safer for pedestrians by reducing the number of traffic lanes they have to cross. All of these changes should help to reduce traffic speed. Planners are looking for broad community participation in the University Avenue Study. ***Plan to attend the next Community Workshop on Thursday July 21, 5:00 to 8:00pm at the Teen Challenge Center, 5450 Lea Street.***

Crossroads Redevelopment PAC Elections Voter Selection at the June 16 ECCC Meeting

The Crossroads Redevelopment Project Area Committee (PAC) will hold elections for committee members at its June 23 meeting. There is not an ECCC candidate for the PAC, but the ECCC is eligible to designate a voter for the Community Organization Representative. Designating a voter will be on the agenda for the June 16, 2011, ECCC meeting.

It's not too late to register as a candidate for the PAC election. Residents, property owners, and business owners in the Crossroads Project area have until June 20 to file the necessary papers. For more information about the Crossroads Redevelopment Area, the PAC, and registering for the election, visit the project area web page at <http://www.sandiego.gov/redevelopment-agency/crossroads.shtml>.

ECCC Board Proposes Input on City Council Redistricting - Vote Set for June 16 Community Meeting

The agenda for the June 16 ECCC meeting includes a community vote on a letter to the City of San Diego Redistricting Commission. The ECCC Board has prepared a draft letter proposing input for drawing new City Council District boundaries. This letter emphasizes the shared interests of communities in the College Area and Eastern Area Planning Groups and it calls for including the College and Eastern planning areas in the same Council district. Read and comment on the complete letter on the ECCC Blog at <http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/>.

Each decade, every level of government redraws district lines in accordance with U.S. Census results. This year, the City of San Diego will add a ninth Council district as part of adopting the strong mayor form of government, and Council districts will change significantly with the addition of a new district. The Redistricting Commission has the sole and exclusive authority to adopt plans which specify the boundaries of districts for the City Council.

The Redistricting Commission held public hearings in each current Council district from March through May and is continuing to receive publicly submitted preliminary redistricting input through the end of June. It is scheduled to file a preliminary redistricting plan and conduct post-map public hearings by the end of July.

Learn more about redistricting on the Redistricting Commission website at: <http://www.sandiego.gov/redistricting/index.shtml>. Read redistricting news and analysis at: www.signonsandiego.com and www.voiceofsandiego.org; search for "Redistricting Commission."

El Cerrito Neighborhood Patrol Updates

By Patti Saraniero

- Trouble with mail theft? You can report mail theft and vandalism online at <http://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>, or by calling 1-877-876-2455.
- There was a recent car prowl in the Living Room Cafe parking lot. SDPD is patrolling the area. Please call the non-emergency number **(531-2000)** if you see suspicious activity around parked cars.
- Car thefts were up in May in the Mid-City area. Hondas are the most popular car to steal this past month.

Extract from Lt. Chuck Kaye's Weekly Report (Dated June, 2011)

There was another good arrest by 810's units. This one is also the results of a traffic stop of a car coming out of the Lucky Lady Casino. Joseph Vaughn was arrested for being a felon in poss. of two firearms. One of the firearms was reported stolen and the other firearm had the serial number removed. The second male in the car, Nicholas Branam had an out of state felony warrant, from Georgia, for statutory rape.

Top 10 Tips for Avoiding Garage Related Break-ins:

**By: Kristin Beattie, Deputy City Attorney,
Neighborhood Prosecutor and SDPD Vice Liaison,
San Diego City Attorney's Office**

- Don't leave your garage door open.
- Don't leave the garage door remote in your vehicle – If a thief breaks in to your car and steals the remote he has a way into your home.
- Invest in a keychain remote opener.
- Secure your garage door emergency release.
- Put a deadbolt on the door between the outside of your house leading to your garage and keep it locked.
- Make sure the door from your garage into your house is as secure as your front door – Ensure you have a strong, sturdy door made out of solid-core wood or reinforced steel and install an "anti-kick" device.
- Install a wide-angle peephole in the door between your house and your garage – You'll at least be able to see what's going on if you hear a strange noise; rather than opening the door to find out.

- Frost or cover your garage windows – Don't let criminals see when your vehicle is gone.
- Padlock the throw latch on your garage door when you're out of town – If you don't have a manual lock on your garage door, you can use a c-clamp tightened down on each side of the door track to effectively "lock" down the door.
- Don't neglect maintenance on your garage door, the door from outside to your garage, and the door from your garage to the inside of your house; check the frame, locks, hinges and any replaceable items.

Stay safe!

At Your Finger Tips

Frequently there is insufficient space in the newsletter for documents, letters, address and e-mails for various city departments, etc. The ECCC Blog was created by Carl Luster and is a great tool for research on a huge range of topics affecting the Community of El Cerrito. You can investigate and use the blog at:

<http://elcerritocommunitycouncil.blogspot.com/>



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Thursday, June 16, 2011

7:00pm to 8:30pm

Blessed Sacrament Parish Library

**Learn About a Proposal to
Reorganize Redevelopment in San Diego
Northgate Gonzales Market**

COMMUNITY VOTES

**ECCC Input to the City of San Diego Redistricting Commission
Request for SDSU's Continued Support of the College Patrol Car
Designation of ECCC Voter for Crossroads Redevelopment PAC Election**

PLEASE HELP US KEEP PRINTING THE NEWSLETTER THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS

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newsletter. Send donation to

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Local Area Meetings & Committee Groups

ECCC Meeting - Third Thursday at 7:00 pm, Parish Hall,
Blessed Sacrament Church, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito
Drive

ECCC Board Meeting - First Thursday at 7:00 pm, Library,
Blessed Sacrament School, El Cajon Boulevard & El Cerrito
Drive

Eastern Area Communities Planning Committee - Second
Tuesday 7:00 pm, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 2725 55th St.

College Area Community Council - Second Wednesday at
7:00 pm, College/Rolando Library corner of Montezuma &
Reservoir

College Area Project Review Committee - First Wednesday
at 7:00 pm, College/Rolando Library - Corner of Montezuma &
Reservoir

Crossroads Project Area Committee (PAC) - Fourth
Thursday at 6:30 p.m. College Avenue Baptist Church, 3rd
floor, Administration Bldg, 4747 College Ave.

**Please call 531-2000 for loud parties or
disturbances**

**Jan Riley – Editor
619-287-2460**

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